

some incentive may be provided to the States that had performed well in terms of poverty reduction. It was also noted that there were special needs and pockets of acute distress in some States and these issues also needed to be addressed. The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission appreciated their concern and agreed that such issues could be considered at the time of the formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Report of the NDC Committee would be placed before the next meeting of the NDC.

Improvement of NH in Tripura

4520. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the fund released from 1995-96 till date for improvement of National Highway in Tripura, year-wise;

(b) what improvements have been made recently and whether any double laning is being done; and

(c) the details of the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The National Highways in Tripura are entrusted to Border Roads Organization (BRO) for improvement and development. The details of funds allocated from 1995-96 till date for improvement of National Highways in the State are as under:

Year	Rs. lakh
1995-96	859.00
1996-97	755.00
1997-98	1267.60
1998-99	1601.30
1999-2000	1986.00
2000-2001	1570.00

(b) and (c) Double-laning of 172 km of NH 44 from Churaibari to Agartala has been planned by BRO. The stretch of NH 44 from Agartala to Sabroom is under development to intermediate

lane width specifications since 1997-98. Improvement of formation has been completed in 130 km length and surfacing has been completed in 125 km length.

Shimla-Chargaon State Highway as National Highway

+4521. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a number of letters from Members of Parliament to develop Shimla-Chargaon State Highway as a National Highway;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would undertake the said work on priority basis keeping in view of the geographical conditions there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir. No such reference has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction and repair of Roads in Bihar

+4522. SHRIMATI KUMKUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal received from Department of Road Construction of the Bihar Government to the tune of total Rs. 673.67 crores for construction and repair of various roads; and

(b) if so, whether sanction is likely to be given during 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.